

I claim:

1 Claim 1 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains between the times of planting and
2 emergence from destruction or compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living
3 organisms, the method consisting of contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous
4 formulation containing only capsicum as the active ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and
5 grains, and protecting the germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise by
6 insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1 Claim 2 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains
2 includes coating the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1 Claim 3 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains
2 includes soaking the crop seeds and grains in the aqueous formulation.

1 Claim 4 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains
2 includes spraying the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1 Claim 5 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains
2 includes forming the aqueous formulation into a thickened paste and applying the paste as a coating
3 to the seeds and grains.

1 Claim 6 The method of claim 5 in which a sprayer is used in the step of applying the paste
2 as a coating to the seeds and grains.

///

1 Claim 7 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains
2 includes vaporizing the aqueous formulation prior to contacting the crop seeds and grains therewith.

1 Claim 8 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by boiling the aqueous
2 solution.

1 Claim 9 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by aerosolizing the aqueous
2 solution.

1 Claim 10 The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of drying the seeds and grains
2 following contact with the aqueous formulation.

1 Claim 11 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains utilizes
2 circulating hot air.

1 Claim 12 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains comprises
2 placing the seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

1 Claim 13 The method of claim 12, further comprising using a conveyor belt for placing the
2 seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

///

1 Claim 14 A method for protecting germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or
2 compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of
3 contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the
4 active ingredient prior to planting, and protecting the seedlings from destruction or compromise by
5 insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1 Claim 15 The method of Claim 14, wherein the germinating crop seeds are protected
2 between the time of germination to the seedling stage.

1 Claim 16 The method of Claim 14, further comprising the following step:
2 Treating the seedlings with a conventional plant treatment.

1 Claim 17 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise
2 by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of coating the
3 crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the active
4 ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and grains.

///